

6 Years' Experience in 4 years, The Secret Word: Time Management

After I passed my Tawjihi exams with flying colors in 2012, I decided to study English language and literature at An-Najah National University in Nablus. The following year our department started a new minor program in American studies which was open to university students of all disciplines. As a second-year student, I felt hesitant to join this program even though I heard it was quite untraditional and engaging. Besides, I knew that joining this program would increase my workload. Yet, I successfully fit both major and minor programs in my four-year study plan. Becoming a student in the minor program of American studies has been the best decision I have ever made. The program, first of all, is unique in all ways; it focuses on a variety of subjects that range from American history and culture to politics and literature. The program doesn't follow the conventional methodology of teaching; instead, it encourages critical thinking, individual innovation, private research and presentations rather than mere memorization and extensive examinations. I must point out here that this program comprises 24 hours; 18 of which are compulsory and 6 are elective and I believe it is doable for students to take one or two courses each semester. Secondly, the minor program offers the chance of meeting students from different fields of study, thus making discussions inside the classroom really motivating and intriguingly multi-dimensional. On top of that, knowing about America's history, culture and literature has been important to my intellectual and cultural development. I graduate this semester with two certificates: a BA in English Language and Literature and a minor in American Studies. As this semester closes in, I would like to leave a message for students: University is a place of learning and gaining new experiences and you should not waste your time. You can achieve a lot by organizing your time wisely.

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